

Appl. No. 10/072,415
Amdt. dated 09/15/2005
Response to Office Action mailed 7/15/2005

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the recognition of patentable subject matter in the present application.

Applicants hereby add new claims 116-119 and cancel claims 87, 97-101, 112, and 115. Accordingly, claims 74-86, 88-96, 102-111, 113-114, and 116-119 are pending in the present application.

Claims 74-75, 78, 83-85, and 88-92 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) for anticipation by U.S. Patent No. 5,710,478 to Kanemaru et al. Claim 76 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 for obviousness over Kanemura in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,329,258 B1 to Inaba. Claims 77, 86, 87 and 112-115 are objected to.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and urge allowance of the present application.

Referring to claim 74, the method recites limitations of claim 112 indicated by the Office to recite allowable subject matter. Claim 74 is believed to be allowable in view of the indication by the Office that claim 112 is allowable.

The claims which depend from independent claim 74 are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claim as well as for their own respective features which are neither shown nor suggested by the cited art.

Referring to claim 83, the method recites limitations of claim 87 indicated by the Office to recite allowable subject matter. Claim 83 is believed to be allowable in view of the indication by the Office that claim 87 is allowable.

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The claims which depend from independent claim 83 are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claim as well as for their own respective features which are neither shown nor suggested by the cited art.

Referring to claim 89, the method recites limitations of claim 115 indicated by the Office to recite allowable subject matter. Claim 89 is believed to be allowable in view of the indication by the Office that claim 115 is allowable.

The claims which depend from independent claim 89 are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claim as well as for their own respective features which are neither shown nor suggested by the cited art.

Applicants have made additional amendments to the claims as indicated herein for consistency in view of the above amendments.

Applicants hereby add new claims 116-119 which include limitations of respective dependent claims 77, 113, 86 and 114 and the respective base claims thereof. New claims 116-119 are believed to be allowable in view of the indication in the Office Action that claims 77, 113, 86, and 114 are allowable.

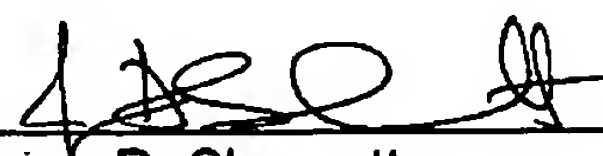
Applicants request allowance of all pending claims.

The Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned if the Examiner believes such would facilitate prosecution of the present application. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time during normal business hours (Pacific Time Zone).

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Respectfully submitted,

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